

PT07096

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SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI EMBASSY
BOMBING

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - TREAT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) SEE ACTION REQUEST IN PARAGRAPH 7.
2. (U) ON FEBRUARY 24, THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT ISSUED A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FATE OF FOUR PAKISTANI CITIZENS WHO WERE SUSPECTED OF BEING INVOLVED IN THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES. (FYI: BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TREATS ALL EMBASSY PROPERTIES AS FOREIGN TERRITORY, NO FEDERAL OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS JURISDICTION OVER ACTS WHICH OCCUR IN SUCH PLACES. THEREFORE, THE SUPREME COURT MAINTAINS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ATTACK.)
3. (U) THE FEBRUARY 24 RESOLUTION STATES THAT, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OTHER POSSIBLE OUTCOMES, THE FACTS GATHERED IN THE INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ACTIONS OF FOREIGN TERRORIST GROUPS LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT "ISLAMIC JIHAD" WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK. THEREFORE, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED AGAINST FOUR PAKISTANI CITIZENS RESIDENT IN ARGENTINA (MOHAMMAD NAWAZ, AZHAR IQBAL, MOHAMMAD AZAM, AND MOHAMMAD NAWAZ CHAUDRY) WERE DROPPED.
4. (SBU) WE MET ON MARCH 4 WITH CHIEF SUPREME COURT INVESTIGATOR ESTEBAN CARNEVARI AND SEVERAL OF HIS TEAM TO DISCUSS THE RESOLUTION. WE ALSO MET WITH EDUARDO MOLINE
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O'CONNER, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, TO REVIEW THE INVESTIGATION. CARNEVARI TOLD US THAT THE CASE AGAINST THE PAKISTANIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN WEAK. IN FACT, THE FOUR WERE RELEASED AFTER BEING HELD FOR ONLY TEN DAYS IN 1992. THE FOUR WERE ARRESTED BASED ON THE TESTIMONY OF A TAXI DRIVER WHO HAD PICKED THEM UP AT THE BUENOS AIRES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AROUND THE TIME OF THE ATTACK. THE TAXI DRIVER TOLD THE POLICE HE HAD PICKED UP A GROUP OF SUSPICIOUS LOOKING AND SOUNDING FOREIGNERS WHO HAD PAID THEIR FARE WITH U.S. DOLLARS. THE DRIVER SAID

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IT APPEARED THE GROUP HAD A LARGE AMOUNT OF U.S. CURRENCY.

5. (SBU) WHEN THE POLICE SEARCHED THE HOUSE OF ONE OF THE SUSPECTS, THEY DETECTED TRACES OF SEVERAL PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES. (CARNEVARI SAID THAT AN ISRAELI SECURITY OFFICIAL AND POSSIBLY A U.S. SECURITY OFFICIAL WERE PRESENT DURING THIS SEARCH, ALTHOUGH THE RECORDS WERE MORE SKETCHY REGARDING USG INVOLVEMENT.) HOWEVER, THE DEVICE USED TO SCAN FOR EXPLOSIVES (WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT) ALSO DETECTED TRACES OF THE EXPLOSIVES ON MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES WHO HAD COME TO THE HOUSE DIRECTLY FROM THE BLAST SITE. THE POLICE CONCLUDED THAT THE SEARCH TEAM HAD CONTAMINATED THE HOUSE WITH RESIDUE FROM THE BLAST SITE. THE POLICE ALSO FOUND IN THE HOUSE A MAP WITH THE ADDRESS OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HIGHLIGHTED. HOWEVER, THIS WAS DEEMED BY THE COURT TO BE CIRCUMSTANTIAL.

6. (SBU) INVESTIGATION OF ONE OF THE PAKISTANIS REVEALED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SUNNI EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION
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"AMAHIDA AL ISLAM." THE POLICE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS. (WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEY WERE REFERRING TO A GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH HARAKAT UL-ANSAR.)

7. (SBU) CARNEVARI THANKED US FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE USG. HE SAID HIS TEAM WOULD CONTINUE INVESTIGATING, ESPECIALLY THE FINANCIAL RECORDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES APPEARED IN THE INVESTIGATION. CARNEVARI ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AS HE TRIES TO TIE UP SOME OF THE INVESTIGATION'S LOOSE ENDS. HE SAID DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE U.S. EMBASSY ASKED PERMISSION FOR THE FBI TO TAKE CLOTHING AND SKIN SAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE VICTIMS. HE ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH A COPY OF THE RESULTS OF ANY TESTS DONE ON THESE SAMPLES, OR AT LEAST TELL HIM THAT NO TESTS WERE EVER MADE. HE ALSO HAD ASKED THE FBI FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING TO COMPARE WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING. CARNEVARI ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT A USG AGENCY, EITHER THE FBI OR THE CIA, HAD

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DONE A STUDY COMPARING THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND AMIA BOMBINGS. HE ASKED IF WE COULD EITHER PROVIDE HIM WITH A COPY OF THESE REPORTS OR A STATEMENT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUCH STUDIES. ACTION REQUEST: PLEASE PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH COPIES OF THE REPORTS MENTIONED ABOVE OR A STATEMENT WE CAN GIVE THE GOA STATING THAT THERE WERE NO SUCH STUDIES MADE.

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01
	FAAE-00	UTED-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-04
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/029W			

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P 052037Z MAR 98
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0260
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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FBI WASHDC

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SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR S/CT, ARA/BSC, AND DS/ICI/PII

E.O. 12958: N/A

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8. (SBU) SUPREME COURT VICE PRESIDENT MOLINE O'CONNER ASKED TO MEET WITH US TO REVIEW THE RESOLUTION. HE UNDERScoreD THE COURT'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION. HE SAID THE INVESTIGATION HAD PRESENTED THE COURT WITH MANY DIFFICULTIES. THE COURT APPRECIATED ALL THE INFORMATION THAT THE EMBASSY AND THE USG HAD BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE. MOLINE O'CONNER ASKED THAT WE CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH CARNEVARI AS THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. WE SAID WE SHARED THE GOA'S HIGH INTEREST IN PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ANY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

9. (U) RUBEN BERAJA, THE HEAD OF THE UMBRELLA JEWISH ORGANIZATION "DAIA," TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE APPRECIATED THAT "FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SUPREME COURT HAD CLEARLY PLACED RESPONSIBILITY WITH ISLAMIC JIHAD." WHEN ASKED IF THE EMBASSY BOMBING INVESTIGATION SHOULD NOW BE LINKED TO THE AMIA INVESTIGATION, BERAJA SAID " WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT OPERATING CIRCUMSTANCES (IN THIS CASE) DO NOT SUGGEST A CLEAR CONNECTION" BETWEEN THE TWO ATTACKS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN A LINK IS FOUND, "IT IS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO AVOID (SEEING) THE CLEAR INVOLVEMENT OF IRAN" IN THE ATTACKS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE COURT'S RESOLUTION "UNTIL THEY DETERMINE CLEARLY THOSE RESPONSIBLE." ROCHA

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